

11, November, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2421-RHOB U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
233-CHOB U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
SH-522 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
SH-511 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources
123-CHOB U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources
1511-LHOB U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators McConnell, Schumer, Murkowski, Cantwell and Representatives McCarthy, Pelosi, Bishop and Grijalva:

We are men and women who have risked our lives to protect this nation, its land, its people, and the values we all hold dear. We respectfully call your attention to nine bills before you that together would permanently protect 1.3 million acres of wilderness, 395 miles of Wild & Scenic River, and 713,000 acres with other conservation designations. They cover diverse landscapes, from Oregon's unspoiled steelhead trout spawning areas, and Southern Utah's slickrock canyons to the ancient hills of East Tennessee.

As you know, many of us who have served face a new set of challenges when we come home. Time spent in solitude or with family and friends in wilderness and on wild and scenic rivers is invaluable as we strive to leave the battlefield behind and train our eyes forward. These protected public lands and rivers offer a chance to heal from the stresses of service, reconnect with loved ones, and reintegrate into civilian life.

Wilderness represents one of the highest ideals for which we fought and for which our brothers and sisters continue to fight: our country is extraordinary and we will preserve it and defend it against anyone who would trammel upon it. We continue our service to the country as advocates for and stewards of its public lands and waters so that all Americans

can experience and learn from the beauty, history, grandeur, and culture of our great nation. In that spirit, we ask that you join us and pass these bills into law:

- Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area Designation Act (S. 513 / H.R. 1308): Sponsored by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), the bill is named for Frank Moore, a celebrated World War II veteran, and his wife, Jeanne, a native plant expert. It will protect approximately 100,000 acres in the North Umpqua watershed, which includes some of the Pacific Northwest's best wild steelhead spawning areas.
- Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks Conservation Act (S. 441): Offered by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM), the act will safeguard more than 241,786 acres of wilderness within the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in the southern part of the state. That area holds World War II-era bombing targets; numerous archaeological and cultural treasures, including Native American and Hispanic heritage sites; and Billy the Kid's Outlaw Rock.
- Tennessee Wilderness Act (S. 973 / H.R. 2218): Offered by Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN), the bill will designate nearly 20,000 acres of wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest, preserving key watersheds and habitat for native brook trout, black bear, and gray foxes, and protect an important migratory, breeding, and wintering habitat for numerous bird species. Among other protections, the measure would expand the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness Area, named for the famed journalist who died in service during World War I.
- Emery County Public Land Management Act (S. 2809 / H.R. 5727): Sponsored by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Rep. John Curtis (R-UT), the act will preserve nearly 540,000 acres of the San Rafael Swell in Emery County as wilderness. The bill would also designate 54 miles of the Green River as wild and scenic and establish a more than 341,000-acre Recreation Area in the San Rafael Swell, protecting the area from new mining and road construction. It would also establish a new Jurassic National Monument on a site that boasts one of the greatest concentrations of Jurassic-era dinosaur bones in the world, and preserves historic uranium mines connected to our country's efforts to harness the power of the atom
- Cerros del Norte Conservation Act (S. 432 / H.R. 5600): Sponsored by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), the legislation will permanently protect more than 21,540 acres in two new wilderness areas – Cerro del Yuta and Rio San Antonio – within the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument northwest of Taos.
- Flatside Wilderness Enhancement Act (H.R. 5636): Sponsored by Rep. French Hill (R-AR), this bill would add 640 acres to the existing Flatside Wilderness in Perry County, Arkansas, preserving habitat for wild turkey, black bear, and other wildlife in a location close to Hot Springs and Little Rock, offering urban residents access to dense, untouched forests, and cool, clear waters.
- Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act (S. 414 / H.R. 1107): Introduced by Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV) and Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV) and

cosponsored by the full Nevada delegation. This measure will protect roughly 136,000 acres of Nevada's Great Basin Desert as wilderness, preserving critical wildlife habitat, dramatic landscapes, and offering outstanding opportunities for solitude and backcountry recreation. At the same time, it would resolve the alternating pattern of federal and private "checkerboard" lands that have long disrupted conservation and development of much of the area.

- Oregon Wildlands Act (S. 1548): Introduced by Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), this legislation will designate more than 90,000 acres of wilderness, create two new recreation areas, and add more than 250 miles to the Wild and Scenic River System, all of which will preserve critical salmon habitat, protect clean drinking water for communities, and help grow outdoor recreation and local economies.
- California Desert Protection and Recreation Act/California Off-Road Recreation and Conservation Act (S. 32 / H.R. 857): Sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA), this measure will designate more than 329,000 acres as wilderness, add 43,000 acres to Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks, and designate 76 miles of wild and scenic rivers, helping to preserve this ecologically diverse and incredibly fragile place, home to unique species and natural communities, a rich cultural heritage, and recreational opportunities that attract visitors from around the world.

In the final days of the 115th Congress, we ask that you join our efforts to protect our country's wildest places and preserve opportunities for veterans and all Americans to find solitude, hunt, recreate, and bond with their families on our protected public lands and waters. Generations to come will thank you for wisdom, courage, and effort in this moment.

Very Respectfully,

Steven Acheson, United States Army, WI
Jeremy Adams, United States Army, OR
Steve Ahern, United States Air Force, WA
Patricia Aker, United States Air Force, OR
Anthony Albert, United States Air Force, OR
David Alderson, United States Navy, AZ
Clay Anderson, United States Army, CO
Clay Anderson, United States Army, CO
S/SGT Don Anderson, United States Air Force, OR
Robert and Sally Arroyo, United States Army, CA
John H. Atkins, Jr., United States Army, OR
Ted Bahn, United States Navy, FL
Stephen Bailey, United States Air Force, WA
Stephen Bailey, United States Air Force, WA
WK Barger, United States Army, NM
Vernon Batty, United States Army, CO
Adam Baylor, United States Coast Guard, WA
Elyce M. Benham, M.S., United States Army, OR

Joe Binns, Jr., United States Army, GA
Evan Bogart, United States Army, CA
Karen Boehler, United States Navy, NM
Tika Bordelon, United States Air Force, WA
Steve Bradley, United States Marine Corps, TX
Larry Branson, United States Army, CA
Joseph Breazeale, United States Air Force, OR
CW04 (Retired) Bernard G. Bricks, United States Army, TN
Roberta Bristol, United States Navy, CA
Chad Brown, United States Navy, OR
Doug Brown, United States Navy, WA
Anthony Buch, United States Navy, WA
Paul Bulger, United States Army, CA
Joshua Bunce, United States Army, CA
Russ Burie, United States Navy, WI
terrence burke, United States Army, CA
James Caldwell, United States Air Force, CA
Joe Callan, United States Marine Corps, NM
Curtis Campi, United States Air Force, NV
Dave Cantrell, United States Air Force, CO
Royal Chamberlain, United States Army, CA
Cari Chenkin, United States Army, CA
Michael Clarke, United States Army, CA
Jane Clevenger SFC (Retired), United States Army, CO
Dr. Jack Cohen, United States Navy, GA
Ralph Collier, United States Army, IN
Zachary W. Collier, United States Army, OR
Pete Compton, United States Marine Corps, WA
Alex Cornell du Houx, United States Marine Corps, ME
Peter Cox, United States Navy, CA
Richard Craven, United States Army, WA
Roland Creswell, United States Army, TX
Richard Davis, United States Navy, CA
Philip Sean Davis, United States Army, OR
James Dawson, United States Army, CA
Gabrielle d'Ayr, United States Navy, NV
Marco de la Rosa, United States Air Force, WA
Marijo and Bruce Douglass, United States Army, NV
Nicholas Downey, United States Marine Corps, AR
James Doyle, United States Army, AZ
Larry Drake, United States Marine Corps, CO
John DuBois, United States Army, WA
MaCherie Dunbar, United States Air Force, AK
Stephen Durbin, United States Army, WA
Stephen Dutschke, United States Air Force, KY
Robin Eckstein, United States Army, OR

Charles Eggerstedt, MD, United States Army, OR
W Elahdab, United States Navy, CA
Donald Evans, United States Navy, NM
D. Fairburn, United States Army, WA
Teresa Fazio, United States Marine Corps, NY
LTC (Retired) Charles F. Ferris, Ph.D., United States Army, CO
Sharon Fetter, United States Navy, WA
Klara Firestone, United States Navy, CA
Lynn Franks, United States Army, CA
George Fuller, United States Air Force, WA
Kimberly Gallagher, United States Air Force, CA
Richard Gary, United States Army, UT
Allen Gillin, United States Army, KY
Jean Goetinck, United States Army, AZ
MSG (Retired- David Govatski, United States Army, NH
William Grannell, United States Marine Corps, CO
Michael Gratz, United States Marine Corps, CA
Gary Green, United States Navy, CA
Dennis Greenhill, United States Navy, WA
Richard P. Hackman, LTC (Retired), United States Army, PA
Linda Haechler, United States Air Force, CA
Ron Hansel, United States Navy, CA
Michael Hardy, United States Marine Corps, UT
Anne Harvey, United States Air Force, CA
Michael Hawe, United States Army, CO
Assaf Hazan, United States Army, AZ
John Heasley, United States Air Force, MA
Todd Heiler, United States Army, CA
Robert Heisler, United States Army, CA
Michael Jay Herbert, United States Navy, OR
Joyce Heyn, United States Navy, CA
Dick Hogle, United States Navy, NM
Melvin Hughes, CW4, United States Army, TN
Lise Hull, United States Navy, OR
Gary Hull, United States Army, UT
Lee Hunnicutt, United States Army, CO
Stephen Hutchinson, United States Marine Corps, CA
Thomas Hutton, United States Army, CO
Steve Iverson, United States Marine Corps, CA
Roy Jellison, United States Navy, CO
Michael Jenks, United States Air Force, CA
Teresa Johnson (Veteran Wife), United States Army, CO
Rev. Allan b. Jones, United States Air Force, CA
Loch Jones, United States Navy, CA
Walter B. Jones, United States Army, NV
James A. Jordan, Jr., United States Army, CA

Peter Kahigian, United States Air Force, MA
Fred Karlson, United States Army, WA
Thomas Karrenberg, United States Air Force, UT
Jeff Kaufman, United States Air Force, KS
Kelly Keefer, United States Army, WA
Larry Kimball, United States Army, CO
Norman M. Kindig, United States Army, CA
Jere Kleinbach, United States Air Force, CA
Tim Kosse, United States Air Force, AZ
G.B. Krauss, United States Navy, CO
Andrew Kumler, United States Army, OR
LisaJo Laptad, United States Army, CO
Quahlee Lassila, United States Air Force, WA
Michael Lawler, United States Army, NM
Gary Lee, United States Army, CA
Rusty Lininger, United States Army, OR
Sammy Low, United States Army, WA
John Ludwig, United States Army, WI
Thomas H. Mader, United States Army, UT
Craig Marburger, United States Navy, OR
Tobe Martin, United States Army, NV
Don Martinez, United States Army, CO
Donald E. Martinez, United States Army, CO
Captain Thomas Massey, United States Army, CA
Michael G. Mathis, United States Navy, AZ
Paul McDaniel, United States Army, NM
Paul Mcdaniel, United States Army, NM
PJ Mcdaniel, United States Army, NM
LindaLee McEachronTaylor, United States Air Force, AZ
Bruce Melendy, United States Navy, OR
Bruce Melendy, United States Navy, OR
Kristine Mitchell, United States Air Force, AZ
Scott A. Morfitt, United States Army, WI
John C. Mosher, United States Navy, AZ
James Mulcare, United States Navy, WA
Thomas Mullens, United States Navy, CA
Derald Myers, United States Army, CA
Brett A. Myrick, United States Navy, NM
Eleanor Navarro, United States Army, AZ
Richard Nelson, United States Navy, WA
John C. Noland, United States Army, OR
Mark Nullman, United States Air Force, CA
Tim OConnor, United States Navy, SD
John Oda, United States Army, CA
Abraham Omorenimwen Oboruemuh, United States Army, CA
Anthony Owen, United States Navy, CA

David Painter, United States Army, OR
Rashid Patch, United States Marine Corps, CA
Roger Peirce, United States Air Force, NM
John M. Perlette, United States Navy, FL
Robin Perry, United States Navy, CA
Robin Perry, United States Navy, CA
Thom Peters, United States Army, WA
Michael Piotrowski, United States Air Force, CA
Steven Pla, United States Army, NM
Alva D. Plumlee, United States Air Force, NV
William Plummer, United States Air Force, CA
Ron Pyle, United States Army, CA
G. Burton Queen, Jr., United States Marine Corps, CO
Garett Reppenhagen, United States Army, CO
David Rockwell, United States Navy, NM
B. Rodriguez, United States Army, CA
Meryl Rogers, United States Navy, UT
Wayner R. Rollis, United States Army, OR
Cynthia Roper, United States Army, NM
Carl Rountree, United States Army, TN
Alex Ryder, United States Air Force, CA
Francis San Filippo, United States Army, CA
Terry Sawyer, United States Air Force, OR
Diana Saxon, United States Marine Corps, OR
PO2 Thomas Schmitz, United States Navy, OR
Paul Schutt, United States Navy, CO
Pamela Scott, United States Navy, CA
Fredrick Seil, United States Army, CA
SGT. Julia Sheridan, United States Marine Corps, WA
Dennis A. Shorts, United States Army, CO
John Simanton, United States Navy, WA
Denis Sjothun, United States Marine Corps, OR
Richard E. Skinner, United States Navy, AZ
William Smart, United States Air Force, UT
Liter Spence, United States Navy, CO
J. Spencer Lake, United States Army, CA
Jack Stansfield, United States Army, WA
Lori Stefano, United States Army, WA
Hank Stevens, United States Air Force, OR
Brad Stone, United States Army, NV
Brian Stultz, United States Army, AZ
tom taylor, United States Army, AZ
Nannette Taylor, United States Air Force, OR
Tobey Thatcher, United States Air Force, OH
Pat Thompson, United States Army, CA
Steven Thurgood, United States Navy, UT

Alec Timmerman, United States Army, MN
John L. Tischhauser, United States Marine Corps, NM
Jim Tracey, United States Army, AZ
Joel Trupin, United States Army, VT
Eddie Turnbull, United States Navy, WA
James A. Vallejos, United States Air Force, CO
Bonnie Vance, United States Army, AZ
Lornett Vestal, United States Navy, IL
Steve Vicuna, United States Army, CA
Alan Voigt, United States Navy, CA
Peter von Christierson, United States Army, WA
H. P. Waldon, Jr. Sgt RVN 69-70, United States Army, TN
Robert S. Walker III., United States Navy, CA
Tom Walsh, United States Navy, CA
Paul Ward, United States Marine Corps, NV
Dona Ward, United States Air Force, OR
James Ward, United States Army, UT
Jeff Weber, United States Army, AZ
Howard Whitaker, United States Army, CA
Thomas Wicks, United States Air Force, OR
John Wiesner, United States Air Force, CA
Susan J. Wilke, United States Army, CA
Charles A. Wolfe, United States Air Force, CA
Marvin Woods, United States Army, TN
Mike Workman-Morelli, United States Navy, OR
Robert Yenney, United States Navy, CA
Robert Yenney, United States Navy, CA
Veronica Z, United States Air Force, OR
Stephen Zettel, United States Navy, WA